

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**Youth Diversity Education Team Sub-Committee (YDET)**  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minutes

The Youth Diversity Education Team of Mesa met on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015,  
at 5:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St., Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap  
Tony Liuzzo  
Frank Johnson  
Cliff Moon

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Frias-Long, Chair  
Talmage Pearce  
Nadia Taylor

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese

GUESTS

Melissa Medvin

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to YDET.

3. Approval of minutes from the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 YDET meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Liuzzo to approve the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 YDET meeting minutes, Dr. Moon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear update, discuss, and take action on planning the April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 screening of the film *The Homestretch*.

Ms. Heap provided an update that Phoenix Pride would be adding the screening in its 10 Days of Pride lineup of events. Ms. Heap will also be sending information about the film so that Phoenix Pride can send out a press release. Ms. Medvin advised that she would be interested in the ADL being a sponsor of the event.

5. Hear update, discuss, and take action on planning a diversity education project with Baha'i community, Anti-Defamation League, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Gay Lesbian Education Network.

The subcommittee discussed how this YDET could explore planning a Youth Forum on Diversity & Inclusiveness. The subcommittee also discussed that the event would be held first in a local neighborhood such as Guerrero Park and those participating could do a service project and learn about the history of the neighborhood as well.

Melissa Medvin, Associate Director of Anti-Defamation League (ADL), provided an overview of ADL and how their work could fit with the needs of the diversity education project. ADL is a civil rights organization that teaches inclusivity. ADL has a No Place for Hate program, and it works in Mesa schools, including Dobson High School. That model has been successful and would like to use it in other schools in Mesa.

Dr. Moon asked if the program is year-long and how the children work on the diversity program during the year. Ms. Medvin stated that the program is all school year, and begins in August. First, the school signs a resolution of respect. Then the school has three qualifying activities, and then in fourth quarter, there is a celebration that the school has met the No Place for Hate program. Dr. Moon also suggested that Kim Klett for Dobson High School be invited to help plan the HRAB event given her experience. Dr. Moon will invite Ms. Klett to the next subcommittee.

6. Hear update, discuss, and take action on exploring and assessing whether bullying is an issue in Mesa.

The subcommittee discussed the issue of bullying in schools. Dr. Liuzzo provided an article on bullying authored by his colleagues to the subcommittee. Dr. Moon has researched bullying, but has yet to find data on Mesa specifically. He did provide research from a state wide study. It was noted that since 2008 and 2012, as students get older, they mature and bullying tends to decrease. However, 8th grade is a critical time to provide education. Mesa Public Schools has an anti-bullying form and guide that was passed out. Ms. Medvin suggested a study by Morrison Institute on bullying that may have additional data.

Dr. Liuzzo suggested that the bullying topic should be incorporated into the youth education project under Agenda Item 5.

A motion was made by Dr. Liuzzo to fold this item into Item 5, so that the issue of bullying becomes one of the topics of the diversity education project. Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Hear update, discuss, and take action on planning a personal finance and nutrition class for youth.

Dr. Liuzzo provided materials to assist the subcommittee with the financial portion of the youth class. The subcommittee discussed having the first class at Care Partnership this spring, for 2 hours on a Saturday.

A motion was made by Dr. Moon that Dr. Liuzzo and Ms. Heap meet with Ms. Tittle-Baker to plan and schedule a personal finance class for junior high school and high school students. Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Hear update, discuss, and take action on Diversity education, information and building a working relationship with schools in Mesa.

The subcommittee discussed that this item is about learning who the Mesa Public Schools board members are and building a relationship with school representatives. Dr. Moon will also invite a school representative to a future subcommittee. Ms. Medvin noted that Gilbert's HRC worked with the Gilbert school board to bring the importance of diversity into the community and that it was an effective relationship.

9. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

- Next YDET meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5pm.
- Hear update, discuss, and take action on MLK Committee's Youth Leadership Development Conference

10. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator